when, through an unfortunate accident, I broke my toe.
I was playing Puck, my second part on any stage, and
had come up through a trap at the end of the last act
to give the final speech. My sister Kate was playing
Titania that night as understudy to Carlotta Leclercq.
Up I came—but not quite up, for the man shut the
trap-door too soon and caught my toe. I screamed.
Kate rushed to me and banged her foot on the stage,
but the man only closed the trap tighter, mistaking the
signal.

" Oh, Katie ! 'Katie ! " *I* cried, " Oh, Nelly ! Nelly ! "
said poor Kate helplessly. Then Mrs. Kean came rushing
on and made them open the trap and release my poor foot.

" Finish the play, dear," she whispered excitedly, " and
I'll double your salary ! " There was Kate holding me
up on one side and Mrs. Kean on the other. Well, I did
finish the play in a fashion. The text ran something like
this—

" If we shadows have offended (Oh, Katie, Katie!)
Think but this, and all is mended, (Oh, my toe !)
That you have but slumbered here,
While these visions did appear. (I can't, I can't 1)
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a drearn, (Oh, dear ! oh, dear !)
Gentles, do not reprehend; (A big sob)
If you pardon, we will rnend. (Oh, Mrs. Kean !) "

How I got through it, I don't know! But my salary
was doubled—it had been fifteen shillings, and it was
raised to thirty—and Mr. Skey, President of St. Bartholo-
mew's Hospital, who chanced to be in a stall that very

evening, came round behind the scenes and put my toe right. He remained my friend for life.

I was not chosen for Puck because I had played Mamilius with some credit. The same examination was